

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1792

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) CALLED
OFF GENERAL STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 24

REF ANKARA 9346

1. SEVERAL TURK-IS SOURCES ON DECEMBER 24 INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ONE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 24 (REFTEL) HAD BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. TURK-IS PRESIDENT, SENATOR HALIL TNC, WHO HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED TO THE LEGISLATURE ON DECEMBER 23, BY SEVERAL MAJOR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS, DECIDED UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF FOUR PARTIES TO CALL OFF ANNOUNCED GENERAL STRIKE ON PROMISE THAT SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY AND PRESIDENT OF SENATE WOULD DEFINITELY BE ELECTED DURING NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. FROM THE LEGISLATURE HE TELEPHONED TURK-IS SECRETARY-GENERAL SADIK SIDE AT 1730 HOURS TO INFORM ALL AFFILIATES THAT HE HAD CALLED OFF STRIKE, AND INSTRUCTED LABOR LEADERS TO LISTEN TO RADIO NEWS AT 1900 HOURS FOR THE

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EXPLANATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THREAT OF GENERAL STRIKE HAD SUF-

FICIENTLY SERVED PURPOSES OF TURKISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

2. ONE OF TUNC'S JUSTICE PARTY SUPPORTERS, AND A MAJOR TRADE UNION PERSONALITY, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT MAJOR LABOR LEADERS HAD CONCURRED IN TUNC'S DECISION ON BASIS THAT ASSEMBLY SPEAKER WOULD SHORTLY BE ELECTED. HE SAID THE SPEAKER WOULD BE KEMAL GUVEN, REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY AND SPEAKER DURING PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

COMMENT: SOME OF THE MORE ACTIVIST SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WITHIN TURK-
IS HAVE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GENERAL STRIKE HAD BEEN
CALLED OFF, AND THERE WAS SOME IMPLIED CRITICISM OF TUNC FOR OVER-
TURNING A DECISION, WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY THE TURK-IS MANAGEMENT
BOARD.

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